United States Patent [19]

Bates et al.

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROPORTIONALLY DISPLAYING WINDOWS ON A COMPUTER DISPLAY SCREEN**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for logically organizing windows displayed on a display screen. The amount of time each of the windows presented to the display screen is active (also known as "in focus") is monitored. Upon receipt of a command from the user, the windows that were active a longer length of time are displayed more distinctively than windows that were active a shorter length of time. More specifically, windows are displayed on the display screen having a window size proportional, to the length of time each of the window were active. For example, a window that was active 40% of the time will have a size that is 40% of the specified window tiling area. Windows that have not been active long enough to exceed a minimum window tiling threshold are displayed as icons outside of or under the specified window tiling area and are not included in the calculations of percentage of activity of the windows.

18 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets